

# LIT 110-03 (F16): Introduction to Literature

Professor Harrison

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Hours: TuTh 11-12:30 & by appt.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Mays, Kelly J. *The Norton Introduction to Literature*. Portable 11<sup>th</sup> Ed. (Norton.)

Oates, Joyce Carol. *Beasts*. (Carroll and Graf.)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

LIT 110 introduces and explores the primary genres of literature: poetry, fiction, and drama. The course emphasizes close reading skills and the writing of smart, effective essays of literary analysis. Along the way, we'll also work diligently on acquiring the critical terms and at least a few of the major approaches crucial to the study (and enjoyment) of literary works.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. distinguish the characteristics of the three major literary genres (poetry, fiction, drama);
2. 2.i. a) refine, and complicate their understanding of individual works in light of these  
a. characteristics;  
b. b) refine and complicate their understanding of genre on the basis of their close reading  
c. and analysis of individual works;  
d. c) thus, think dialectically about genre and individual works of literature; and,
3. 2.ii. a) look beyond the characteristics of each major literary genre to understand, as much as  
a. possible, the particular literary innovations and accomplishments of an individual work;  
b. b) judge, as much as possible, whether (and how and why) an individual work affirms,  
c. complicates, or upends the characteristics and “rules” of its respective genre(s);
4. incorporate appropriate critical terms and concepts into their reading and analysis of individual works and the three major literary genres;
5. state clearly, in class and in writing—and while drawing on appropriate critical terms and concepts—the central themes, concepts, and ideas at play in individual works and genres;
6. evaluate the literary and/or cultural significances of both individual literary works and their respective genres;

7. engage thoughtfully with a range of critical terms and perspectives on literary and cultural (and even controversial) issues, including an ability to state clearly the assumptions and premises of their own position;
8. perform a close reading (both in class and in writing assignments), demonstrating an ability to interpret literary texts by thoughtfully integrating quoted passages into larger argumentative claims; and,
9. write audience- and occasion-appropriate, clear, grammatically consistent, and rhetorically effective papers, driven by a thesis and sustained by logic, the discipline-appropriate conventions of essay writing, and the ordered, carefully structured presentation of ideas and interpretation.

## GRADING

Essay 1 (3+ pages):	20%
Essay 2 (3+ pages):	20%
Essay 3 (5+ pages):	25% (A <b>REVISION</b> of either Essay 1 or Essay 2.)
Final Exam:	25% <sup>1</sup>
Participation:	10%

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Please note that you must complete **all** written work to pass LIT 110. **You must, in other words, turn in all three essays, and take the final exam.** Essays will be deducted ONE letter grade for EACH class period they are late.

### Attendance Policy:

Since the course involves informed discussions of the readings, attendance and participation are crucial: after THREE absences, your FINAL GRADE will be deducted ONE letter grade for each additional TWO absences.

## DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### Department Assessment:

The Department of English's ongoing process of assessing its curriculum requires a committee of professors to read student papers (including exams) to learn how students in general are progressing through the program or course of studies. Thus, your professor may choose a copy of one of your papers or ask for an electronic version of it to use in this assessment process. (All identifying information—such as name or ID number—will be removed and no evaluation of student work outside the boundaries of the course will play any role in determining a student's grade.) If you do not want your work used in such a way, please inform your professor and she

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<sup>1</sup> Covers material from the entire course and will consist, in all likelihood, of a combination of essay and short answer questions.

or he will not forward it to the Assessment Committee. Otherwise, the Department of English appreciates your tacit consent.

#### University Assessment:

Students should also note that this course may require an electronic submission (via Moodle) of an assignment stripped of your personal information to be used for educational research and assessment of the university's writing program. Your paper will be stored in a database. A random selection of papers will be assessed by a group of faculty and staff using a rubric developed from the following writing learning outcomes:

- Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose
- Formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing
- Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts
- Revise written work based on constructive feedback
- Find, evaluate, and use information effectively
- Begin to use discipline-specific writing conventions (MLA)
- Demonstrate appropriate English language usage

This assessment in no way affects either your course grade or your progression at the university. Your work is used anonymously.

#### Plagiarism:

***the use of someone else's ideas or words as if they were your own.*** To avoid this contravention of the fundamental values of the academy, you ***must*** acknowledge, by citation of name, title, and/or page number, work that has influenced your thinking. The University's official warning can be found in the Student Conduct Code (Academic Conduct), available on the web:

[http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php)

#### Disability Accommodation:

Students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for coursework. To request accommodation, please contact the professor as soon as possible. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/dss/> or call (406) 243-2243 (Voice/Text).

## SYLLABUS

Tu Aug 30: Introduction

Th Sept 1: ***Poetry Unit***

Mays 450-475

**\*\*Essay 1: Assigned\*\***

Tu Sept 6: Mays 483-489

Carpe Diem: Marvel 505-06, Marlowe 697-98, Raleigh 708

And, if You Seize the Day? The Complications of "Love": Behn 467, Parker 492, St. Vincent Millay 652-53 ("I, being born a woman and distressed")

Th Sept 8: Mays 501-515, 527-529

Dramatic Monologue: Springsteen 463-4, Browning 667-68

Tu Sept 13: Mays 548-555, 560-572

Dramatic Monologue (Cont.): Eliot 679-83

Th Sept 15: Mays 586-601

Lyric: O'Hara 460, Cummings 496-97, Brooks 497, Hayes 499, Pastan 503, Angelou 522, Cofer 524-25, Rich 531, Piercy 533-34, Knight 534-35, Ortiz 542, Roethke 552

Tu Sept 20: Mays 611-616, 620-622, 632-643

Sonnet: Mays 645-656

Th Sept 22: Essay Writing: The Basics (Revisited), MLA, Final Draft Checklist (FDCL)

Tu Sept 27: ***Poetry Extravaganza!***

Alvarez 663-64, Bradstreet 666, Dickinson 671-74, Hughes 689-90, Majmudar 696-97, Mora 700-01, Pound 707, Rich 708-09, Shelley 710, Stevens 711, Yeats 723-24

**\*\*Essay 1: Due, Including Folder + All Work Related Product\*\***

Th Sept 29: ***Fiction Unit***

Mays 12-16, 30-33, 57-66,

Baldwin 73-101

**\*\*Essay 2: Assigned\*\***

Tu Oct 4: Mays 102-107

Hemingway 114-19

Th Oct 6: Mays 122-130

Morrison 131-148

Tu Oct 11: Mays 157-164, 205-211

Danticat 226-240

Th Oct 13: Mays 241-245

Crane 245-266

Tu Oct 18: *The Gothic!*  
Poe 107-114  
Faulkner 298-306

Th Oct 20: Gilman 307-320

Tu Oct 25: Oates epigraph-46  
Th Oct 27: Oates 47-90

Tu Nov 1: Oates 91-138  
**\*\*Essay 2: Due, Including Folder + All Work Related Product\*\***

Th Nov 3: ***Drama Unit***  
Mays 740-743,772-783  
Shakespeare (& His Contemporaries), The Elizabethan Theatre, The Globe  
**\*\*Essay 3: Assigned\*\***

Tu Nov 8: **\*\*No Class: Election Day\*\***  
Th Nov 10: Shakespeare 1081-1106

Tu Nov 15: Shakespeare 1106-1131  
Th Nov 17: Shakespeare 1131-1164

Tu Nov 22: **\*\*Workshop Essay 3\*\***  
Th Nov 24: **\*\*No Class: Thanksgiving!\*\***

Tu Nov 29: Shakespeare 1164-1190  
Th Dec 1: Shakespeare: Further Considerations  
**\*\*Essay 3: Due, Including Folder + All Work Related Product\*\***

Tu Dec 6: **\*\*Review for Final Exam\*\***  
Th Dec 8: **\*\*Review for Final Exam\*\***

Exam Week: **\*\*Final Exam\*\***